Johnson Spent Week With McGovern

'Mr. Average' Undecided

With less than 24 hours to go in the 1972 presidential campaign, the nationally famous Rolling Meadows man who spent a week in September stumping with the McGovern for President brigade says he still has not decided which candidate will be getting his vote.

Richard Johnson, who gained fame as "Mr. Average American" when he starred in several telelvision broadcasts produced by the National Public Affairs Center for Television (NPACT), told the Herald Friday, "to be quite frank, I still have not made up my mind, and I probably won't know for sure until I actually vote."

Because he was the subject of a documentary which viewed the behind-the-scenes workings of a presidential campaign through the eyes of an average American, Johnson's presidential choice has generated more than casual interest.

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Johnson's memoirs of the week spent with the McGovern campaign have been serialized exclusively in the Herald. The final installment appears in today's issue in Sect. 2, page 7.

AFTER THE TRIP, Johnson had indicated he was still "leaning toward the President," but late last week, he told the Herald his leaning position has now shifted toward McGovern.

"I'm still undecided, but I would say now that I'm leaning to McGovern," he said. "This peace business rubs me the wrong way," he added in explaining his shift. "We all want to see peace (in Vietnam) and thank goodness it's coming, but I'm a little perplexed as to why it's coming now and why it couldn't have come sooner."

Though he's undecided about the presidential race , Johnson says he isrelatively sure about his choices in other races. "I imagine I would probably vote for (Daniel Walker for governor,(Edward) Hanrahan against (Bernard) Carey for state's attorney, and for (Charles) Percy for senator"